Setting up of an Arbitration Board by the Telecom. Commission.

105. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BICP's recommendations have been accepted by the Telecom Commission to set up an arbitration board to settle the disputes between the service providers and subscriber;

(b) if so, what will be its terms of reference and compositions of the Board; and

(c) if not, by when exactly it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference and composition of the Board are being worked out.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (b) above.

Amendment of Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986

106. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 921 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1993 and state:

(a) whether Government will consider amending the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986 to properly supervise and administer the SCICI and its role in financing the deep sea fishing industry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what steps are proposed to ractify the various flaws in the administration of SCICI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) SCICI is a private sector company incorporated under the Companies Act. It is governed by the policies as decided by its Board of Directors from time to time, like other financial institutions. No amendment of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) (Abolition) Act is intended for this purpose. In so far as loans granted by erstwhile SDFC are concerned, SCICI acts as an agent (designated person) of Government for recovery/administration of portfolio.

Steps to utilise foreign aid

107. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than $ 18.5 billion of unutilised aid given to India has piled up over the years;

(b) whether Aid India Consortium of Western donors has voiced its concern at New Delhi's failure to utilize the existing aid commitments as reported in the Pioneer of July 2, 1993;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative what are the facts in this regard;

(d) what is the total amount of aid given to India by each donor during each of the last three years;

(e) what are the details of the aid and the projects for which it was given;

(f) the reasons for which Government failed to utilize the existing aid commitments in respect of each project; and

(g) what steps are being taken by Government to expedite implementation and disbursement from the existing aid commitments and to remove the deficiencies that exist in the present system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was a discussion at the Aid India Consortium on further steps to improve the utilisation of External Assistance.